



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, December 07, 2016

Electricity

Update: Exelon's 1,131 MW Byron Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois at Full Power by December 7

On the morning of December 6 the unit was operating at 69 percent reduced from full power on December 5.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Update: Silver Ridge's 200 MW Mount Signal Solar Unit in California Returns to Service by December 6

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 134 MW that began on December 3.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201612061515.html>

Update: Abengoa's 275 MW Mojave Solar Unit in California Returns to Service by December 6

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 185 MW that began on December 4.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201612061515.html>

Illinois Governor Signs Legislation to Keep Exelon's 1,138 MW Clinton, 2,018 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Plants Open 10 More Years

Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner on Wednesday signed legislation ensuring Exelon's Quad Cities and Clinton power facilities remain open for another 10 years. A joint study conducted by the Illinois Commerce Commission, the Illinois Power Agency, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity found that allowing several nuclear plants to prematurely close would cause the state's electric rates to increase by as much as 26 percent during stress events while grid reliability and capacity would significantly decrease, House Republican Leader Jim Durkin said. The newly signed legislation contains a guaranteed cap that energy prices cannot increase more than 25 cents on the average residential home, and cannot increase more than 1.3 percent on commercial and industrial users over the next ten years. Rates are projected to decrease for the first several years due to the utilities being able to amortize energy efficiency.

<http://www3.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=2&RecNum=13923>

<http://www.exeloncorp.com/newsroom/governor-rauner-signing-of-future-energy-jobs-bill>

<http://www.kfvs.com/story/33994053/rauner-to-sign-exelon-subsidy-to-spare-2-nuclear-plants>

DOE Issues Permit for TDI New England's 1,000 MW New England Clean Power Link Transmission Project

TDI New England on Monday announced the U.S Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Presidential Permit for its New England Clean Power Link—a buried electric transmission line that will connect New England with Eastern Canada. A Presidential Permit is required for the construction, operation, and maintenance of electric facilities connecting at the international borders of the U.S. In addition to the Presidential Permit, the project recently secured authorization from ISO-New England confirming it can reliably connect to the regional electric grid. The proposed 154-mile underwater and underground New England Clean Power Link transmission line will deliver 1,000 MW of clean, lower-cost power to the Vermont and New England market. The line will originate at the U.S.-Canadian border and travel approximately 97 miles underwater down Lake Champlain to Benson, Vermont. The cable will then be buried along town and state road and railroad rights-of-way or on land owned by TDI New England for approximately 57 miles to a new converter station to be built in Ludlow, Vermont. The project is expected to be in service in 2019.

<http://www.necplink.com/press-releases/120516.php>

EDP Renewables Cancels Number Nine Wind Farm Project in New England

EDP Renewables on Monday withdrew its application with environmental regulators to build the Number Nine Wind Farm in Aroostook County, Maine. The company plans to “refresh the project design” in areas including wildlife and wetland data, according to a project manager at the company. EDP Renewables said new transmission lines to connect it with the New England grid have taken longer than expected and the loss of a power purchase deal with utilities in Connecticut also contributed to the decision to cancel the project.

Reuters, 17:31 December 6, 2016

Petroleum

Motiva Restarts HCU at Its 603,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery December 6 after Upset December 5 – Sources

Motiva Enterprises on Tuesday restarted an expanded hydrocracking unit (HCU) at its Port Arthur, Texas refinery after it fell out of production on Monday night, said sources familiar with plant operations. The HCU restarted over the weekend following a two-month overhaul that boosted its capacity by 25,000 b/d to 105,000 b/d. The unit was working to get its output on specification on Monday when a malfunction forced the HCU to go offline, the sources said. Energy industry intelligence service Genscape reported flaring at the refinery on Tuesday. The sources said the flaring was due to the start-up of the hydrocracker. In addition to expanding the hydrocracker, Motiva boosted the capacity of hydrotreating unit (HTU) 5 to 80,000 b/d from 62,000 b/d, according to the sources. The restart of HTU 5 was tied to the hydrocracker’s return.

Reuters, 19:37 December 6, 2016

Natural Gas

Regency Reports High Liquids at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 6

Regency reported high liquids caused the plant to shut down. All inlet streams were shut in, the gas was recycled, and the plant was restarted.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=248278>

TransCanada to Proceed with 355 MMcf/d Saddle West Natural Gas Expansion Project

TransCanada Corporation on Wednesday announced its wholly-owned subsidiary, NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. (NGTL), will move forward with an expansion of its NGTL System, the Saddle West Project, which will increase total natural gas transportation capacity on the northwest portion of the system by approximately 355 MMcf/d. The project will include 18 miles of 36-inch pipeline looping of existing mainlines, the addition of five compressor units at existing station sites, and new metering facilities. An application to construct and operate the project will be filed with the National Energy Board in the third quarter of 2017, and subject to regulatory approvals, construction is expected to start in 2018. The project is underpinned by incremental firm service contracts and is expected to be in service in 2019.

<http://www.transcanada.com/announcements-article.html?id=2109527&t>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nigeria, Morocco Agree to Build Natural Gas Pipeline

Nigeria and Morocco on Wednesday announced an agreement to build a pipeline to carry Nigerian natural gas to North Africa and Europe. The two countries will jointly develop the pipeline to run about 2,500 miles along the West African coast from Nigeria to Morocco on a route yet to be decided.

Reuters, 8:31 December 7, 2016

Shell Signs Provisional Agreement to Develop Iranian Oil, Gas Fields

Royal Dutch Shell on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding with National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) “to further explore areas of potential cooperation,” an Iranian official said. Earlier on Wednesday, an Iranian Oil Ministry official said Shell would sign three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in Tehran to develop the South Azadegan and Yadavaran oil fields and the Kish gas field. The South Azadegan and Yadavaran fields both overlap Iran’s border with Iraq. Total, which last month signed the first deal by a Western energy firm since sanctions were lifted, will start talks about new oil and gas projects but will not be signing any deals on Wednesday, the Iranian official said.

Reuters, 10:50 December 7, 2016

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices December 7, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	49.80	49.36	37.59
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.71	3.04	2.09

Source: Reuters

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM ET every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM ET every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Energy Assurance Daily provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. ET. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov